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Stripes™



A news digest from The Stars and Stripes

Tuesday, April 28, 1998

Eight pages

Pentagon livid about analyst's media leaks

By Baltimore Sun

The Navy has a \$47 billion problem, and some of its leaders have decided who gets the blame.

Not Boeing Co., the contractor. And not program officials who let the Pentagon start production of the plane without mentioning that its wings don't work right. Instead, the thread of blame twists through the halls of the Pentagon to an office so small the desk blocks the door from closing.

Here, Franklin C. "Chuck" Spinney has infuriated Navy brass by using the telephone, copy machine and e-mail to tell the world what's wrong with the Navy's F/A-18E/F Super Hornet fighter jet.

For his efforts, Spinney hears comments like Assistant Navy Secretary John Douglass made recently in the Norfolk (Va.) Virginian-Pilot, saying that the fighter's biggest problem is leaks to the news media by "weenies" who otherwise would be "just another low-level puke in the bureaucracy."

In a bureaucratic career that spans more than a generation, Spinney has become one of the most polarizing figures in the Pentagon.

"Chuck is sort of like the conscience of

the Pentagon," said Charlie Murphy, an aide to Republican Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa. "He's a very moral person."

The Super Hornet is only the most recent example of Spinney's vast body of criticisms.

Some insiders won't talk about Spinney publicly for fear of association, others because they despise him so much they mistrust their tongues. But he wasn't always a solitary voice at the bottom of a well.

Fifteen years ago, Spinney, now 52, made the cover of Time magazine and became the poster boy for a band of renegade bureaucrats known as the Pentagon Underground or the Military Reform Movement.

Spinney hates the passive-sounding title of analyst, but that's basically his job — to study warplanes for the program analysis and evaluation section of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. His civil service salary is about \$100,000 a year.

Pentagon staff members regularly avoid Spinney in hallways or on exercise machines in the gym. But Spinney is not going anywhere just yet. He is so battle-hardened now that the absence of a nasty bureaucratic fight gets him down.

"It's always amazed me," said his wife.

Cohen rebuffs NATO doomsayers

By Newsday

WASHINGTON — New York Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan warned Monday that adding three former communist states to NATO will drive Russia into a corner and could lead to a nuclear confrontation, a prediction the White House dismissed as "apocalyptic."

Speaking at the start of a historic Senate debate on amending the 1949 NATO treaty to admit the Czech Republic, Hungary and

Poland, he noted that expansion would bring NATO to the frontier of Russia. "We may stumble into the catastrophe of nuclear war with Russia," Moynihan said.

"I simply do not see it," said Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn. Earlier, Defense Secretary William Cohen told reporters, "I don't see the kind of apocalyptic suggestions being raised by some as ever materializing."

Moynihan won little

support for his planned amendment requiring new applicants to NATO to be admitted first to the European Union.

"With all due respect for the European Union," said Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, "the EU could not find its way out of a wet paper bag."

The administration believes it has a two-thirds majority for the expansion plan. A vote is not expected before Wednesday.

U.N. keeps sanctions against Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Despite new warnings from Baghdad, the Security Council has agreed to maintain economic sanctions against Iraq but put off action on calls by Russia and others to scale back inspections of Iraqi nuclear facilities.

After a daylong review Monday, council President Hisashi Owada of Japan announced "there was no consensus to modify the sanctions regime," meaning the seven-year embargo stays in place. No vote was taken.

U.N. arms inspectors must certify that Iraq has destroyed all long-range missiles and chemical, biological and nuclear weapons before the council will lift the embargo, imposed in 1990 after Saddam Hussein's forces invaded Kuwait.

The review is the first since Iraq signed a deal in February with Secretary-General Kofi Annan to open all sites, including presidential compounds, to U.N. arms inspectors.

The council adjourned its consultations Monday afternoon to hear a personal appeal by Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf to end the sanctions.

Al-Sahhaf repeated Iraqi claims that Baghdad had complied with U.N. orders but that the United States and Britain are trying to maintain sanctions indefinitely.

Afterward, British Ambassador John Weston said he heard nothing that changes his opinion that Iraq wants to see sanctions lifted "while preserving covert weapons of mass destruction."

But in a separate report, the International Atomic Energy Agency said it found no evidence Iraq still seeks to produce nuclear weapons.

Test price tag: \$70 million

By Washington Post

One of the most expensive 30 minutes in weapons testing will occur this fall when a target missile launched from an Air Force base in California arcs west, triggering pursuit by an experimental interceptor fired from a remote atoll in the Pacific Ocean.

Hit or miss, one result will be a bill soaring above \$70 million, according to Pentagon officials.

As independent analysts urge more flight tests after a string of failures in related intercept programs, the extraordinary cost of these trials is pushing up the overall expense of development. Much of the extra \$2.3 billion that the Clinton administration has decided, under pressure from Congress, to pour into the program over the next several years will go for additional flight testing, officials said.

Asked about the costs of a flight test, officials with the Pentagon's Ballistic Missile Development Organization provided the following rundown for the first intercept attempt this autumn by a new "exoatmospheric kill vehicle."

The vehicle, mounted atop a booster rocket, will be launched from the Kwajalein Atoll located 2,100 nautical miles southwest of Hawaii, where the Army maintains a testing complex. It is supposed to separate from the booster in space, then search for and ram into the target warhead.

Japan, U.S. sign pact to boost military ties

TOKYO (AP) — U.S. and Japanese officials signed an agreement today increasing the logistical support that their military forces can provide one another during emergencies in East Asia.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi signed the amendment to a 1996 accord about military cooperation regarding Japan's peace and security.

The United States has 47,000 U.S. military personnel in Japan under mutual defense arrangements, and the forces play a crucial role in maintaining security in the region.

Japan's post-World War II Constitution forbids its military from settling international disputes through force. China, which maintains the largest military force in East Asia, has urged Tokyo and Washington not to expand their military cooperation.

The amendment allows the militaries of the two allies to exchange food, transportation and petroleum during crises, but it expressly prohibits the provision of weapons or ammunition.

The provision follows an agreement reached in September.

In another development

during Albright's one-day visit to Japan, the Japanese Cabinet approved two bills regarding Japan's security. Both are expected to be approved by the Diet.

One would allow Japanese forces to join search-and-rescue operations for U.S. military personnel, or to inspect foreign vessels off Japan during emergencies in the region that have been identified by a U.N. Security Council resolution.

The other would allow Japan's Self-Defense Forces to use aircraft and warships to evacuate Japanese trapped in other countries during such emergencies.

U.S. pilot ejects over Persian Gulf

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A U.S. fighter jet crashed in gulf waters Monday, but the pilot ejected and was recovered by a U.S. helicopter, a U.S. statement said.

"The aircraft, assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron 192 ... went down just after 1300 (1 p.m.) GMT. A helicopter from the aircraft carrier Independence recovered the pilot, who was uninjured," said a brief statement from the public affairs office of the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command at 5th Fleet headquarters in

Bahrain.

The statement said the cause of the accident was under investigation.

The plane was launched from the aircraft carrier Independence, which is in the Persian Gulf to patrol the southern no-fly zone in Iraq — where Iraqi aircraft are not allowed to fly under a U.N. resolution.

The F/A-18 Hornet is flown by both the Navy and Marine Corps. It can perform either air-to-air combat or ground attack missions.

Court-martial begins for 2 in Marine death

TOKYO (AP) — A court-martial has begun for two U.S. Marines accused of involvement in the death of a corporal dangled and then dropped from a barracks window on Okinawa.

The proceedings began Monday and a verdict was expected Wednesday, according to Marines spokesman David T. Romley.

Cpl. Geoff A. Tessier, 21, and Pfc. Phillip S. Oxendine, 19, face charges of involuntary manslaughter, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. Tessier also faces charges of assault and battery. Both have pleaded innocent.

Military investigators said Marine Lance Cpl. Christopher Epley, 22, of

Brandenburg, Ky., and eight other Marines were playing a game called "trust" while drinking at a birthday party in a Marine barracks Dec. 21.

They took turns dangling each other upside down by their ankles outside the window, and Epley accidentally was dropped, investigators said.

Tessier is from Nashua, N.H. Oxendine is from Lumberton, N.C.

A total of five Marines were charged in Epley's death. Two were convicted earlier this month of disorderly conduct, and a third, present in the room but not accused of taking part in dangling Epley, pleaded guilty to charges of disorderly conduct and already completed his sentence.

Stripes

Stripes is produced by the editorial staff of The European Stars and Stripes at Darmstadt, Germany, from European and Pacific Stars and Stripes staff stories and wire service reports. The Internet address is <http://www.slite.afis.osd.mil/>

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Panel proposes opening Tomb of the Unknowns

By Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — A Pentagon study group on Monday proposed opening the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery to investigate with DNA testing whether the unidentified remains of a Vietnam-era serviceman are those of an Air Force pilot.

After four months of deliberation, the panel said the testing would probably succeed in determining whether six bones in the revered crypt belong to 1st Lt. Michael J. Blassie. The tests should be performed, the panel said, to bring certainty to Blassie's family, which has been unsure of his fate in the 26 years since his A-37B fighter plane was downed by ground fire near An Loc, Vietnam.

Even so, Defense Secretary William Cohen said he reserved a final decision on the recommendation until he had heard from Pentagon lawyers. "My position is to wait until I get some counsel," Cohen said during an appearance on Capitol Hill.

Despite Cohen's hesitation, Blassie's younger brother said the family was pleased with the drift of the Pentagon's deliberations. "We're very encouraged," George Blassie, 36, who lives in St. Peters, Mo. "We believe the final decision will be to disinter the remains for testing."

Sources close to the issue speculated that Cohen was holding back on a decision to gauge any opposition that might emerge to opening the crypt.

So far, however, little has been visible. Most groups representing veterans and families of Vietnam-era service members have weighed in on the side of disintering the remains from the marble vault.

"They're moving in the right direction," said Phil Budahn, spokesman for the American Legion, which has argued that the tomb should be opened if there was evidence to justify such a step.

The remains were entombed in 1985 at a ceremony presided over by President Reagan.

Cohen renews push for funds

By Scripps Howard News Service

WASHINGTON — One of the best ways to spur a recalcitrant Congress to see things your way is to threaten to lay off workers or make life more difficult for U.S. troops if legislators don't deliver.

That is precisely the tactic Defense Secretary William Cohen used Monday to try to pressure Capitol Hill to quickly, and with no strings attached, cough up enough money to pay for the unanticipated costs of keeping thousands of soldiers in Bosnia and the Persian Gulf.

And it appeared he had gotten his message across, loud and clear.

Cohen, a former GOP senator from Maine who often found himself on the other side of such administration threats, was making it known that if the House and Senate don't agree within a week to cut a check for \$2.3 billion, he will have to set in motion the process to begin laying off thousands of the department's civilian workers located worldwide.

He also raised the specter of cutting back on training for the troops if the emergency money, contained in what is called a supplemental appropriation for the current fiscal year, is not forthcoming.

"It's critical for us to have the supplemental," Cohen told reporters on Capitol Hill, where he had gone to lobby his former colleagues for the measure. In its absence, "we will have to cut back on our training and our readiness."

Without an agreement immediately, "we will send notices out, beginning the first part of May — which is next week — notifying the various field commanders that they should plan on ... furloughing some of their civilian employees," Cohen said.

Nuclear sub named after Carter

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jimmy Carter has a wish come true. The Navy is naming its newest, most powerful submarine the Jimmy Carter, honoring a young submariner who became the 39th president of the United States.

And with a trademark toothy grin, the honoree said the Navy had done exactly what he would

have wished in giving his name to a sub, also designated SSN 23.

"If I had a choice between a submarine and an airport, I would choose a submarine," he said. Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport recently was named for the man who upset Carter's bid for re-election.

Carter called the naming

ceremony "one of my proudest days" and added, "My tie to the SSN 23 will be one that will last the rest of my life."

The 353-foot Jimmy Carter, the third and final Seawolf class sub, is under construction by the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics. It is scheduled to join the fleet in 2001.

4 airmen in Europe win honors, advance to D.C. finals

By Stars and Stripes

Olivia V. Loya didn't expect to be a final contender, but the judges in the competition for U.S. Air Forces in Europe Airman of the Year had different ideas.

The judges named Loya airman of the year during an annual awards ceremony Friday at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Airman 1st Class Loya and three winners in other categories were chosen from 12 nominees representing 3rd Air Force, 16th Air Force and the USAFE Headquarters staff. They now advance to the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the

Year and First Sergeant of the Year competitions in Washington, D.C.

Loya is stationed at Ramstein but won the award for her performance while assigned to the 39th Supply Squadron of Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

There the 24-year-old acted as a liaison between her squadron and units deployed to Incirlik.

Ronald A. Gisel won Noncommissioned Officer of the Year honors, but the 30-year-old staff sergeant said he won the award on behalf of all NCOs stationed in Europe.

The winner for the Senior NCO of the Year award also gave credit to his supervisors, peers and subordinates. However, Master Sgt. Timothy Gordon said the high operations tempo of the 100th Communications Squadron at RAF Mildenhall, England, also provides plenty of opportunity for people to excel.

The other winner, Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey H. Gryczewski, took honors as First Sergeant of the Year but was unavailable for comment. Gryczewski is with the 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron at Spangdahlem AB, Germany.

Some aging nuke weapons expected to get a new life

By Washington Post
WASHINGTON — While the Clinton administration urges the Senate to ratify treaties that end nuclear testing and sharply cut the number of U.S. and Russian strategic nuclear weapons, U.S. government scientists are pressing ahead with new methods for keeping thousands of strategic missile warheads and bombs reliable and accurate for at least 25 more years.

The program, overseen by the Pentagon and Department of Energy, has begun rebuilding some of

the approximately 9,000 nuclear warheads that remain in America's arsenal to keep the U.S. deterrent credible, in part by extending the life of some weapons.

For example, the Mark 21 re-entry vehicles that contain the nuclear warheads on MX intercontinental ballistic missiles are scheduled to be taken off those ICBMs and refurbished to make them reliable beyond 2025, according to Gene Ives, deputy assistant secretary of energy for military applications and stockpile

management.

In the 1980s, when the MX re-entry vehicle and its 350-kiloton W87 warhead were designed and produced, the two were expected to be deployed for 20 years, until 2009, according to documents.

The \$4.1 billion annual DOE stockpile stewardship and management program has drawn steady criticism from anti-nuclear groups. The Los Alamos Study Group, a collection of 39 disarmament and environmental groups, last week again urged halting the program.

Hoffa cleared for Teamster run

WASHINGTON (AP) — A six-count indictment filed against the Teamsters' former political director left open the possibility that prosecutors could seek charges against other labor and political leaders.

A federal grand jury in New York on Monday indicted William Hamilton on charges stemming from the tainted 1996 union contest between incumbent Ron Carey and James P. Hoffa, son of labor legend Jimmy Hoffa.

Carey's slim 1996 re-election victory was overturned in November by a court-appointed monitor who found that Carey took part in a scheme to use some \$885,000 in union funds to bolster his re-election coffers.

Carey has denied wrongdoing, but he was barred from running again and his

campaign manager and two consultants to the campaign — Jere Nash, Michael Ansara and Martin Davis — pleaded guilty in federal court last year to conspiring to raise illegal funds.

Also on Monday, election officer Michael Cherkasky cleared the way for Hoffa to participate in the rerun election. The court-appointed monitor approved Hoffa's run despite finding during a five-month investigation that he occasionally was "vague and not credible" in his sworn statements about the conduct of a top aide, Richard Leebove. The monitor barred Leebove from participating in the new campaign.

Hamilton was charged with participating in an illegal fund-raising scheme that enriched Carey's coffers at the expense of the union treasury.

High court to rule on line-item veto

By Washington Post
WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court took up a case of great constitutional moment, testing whether Congress violated the principle of separation of powers when it gave the president authority to cut individual projects from tax and spending bills without vetoing the entire legislation.

The justices are examin-

ing whether the line-item veto law, passed in 1996 with huge political fanfare, treads on Congress' authority. In a practical vein, a ruling could determine whether the president can reduce the federal deficit by blocking what he considers to be excessive spending that Congress lacked the political will to cut.

During the lively hour of

oral arguments Monday, Solicitor General Seth P. Waxman tried to minimize the step Congress had taken when it passed the law and urged the justices to reverse a district court ruling that found the line-item veto unconstitutional.

The line-item veto was a major plank in the House GOP's "Contract With America." Clinton supported the legislation.

General named to reserve unit

From wire reports

ATLANTA — Brig. Gen. Frederic Raymond, commander of the Florida Army National Guard's 53rd Infantry Brigade in Tampa, has been named deputy commanding general for reserve components of the 1st U.S. Army, headquartered at Fort Gillem in Forest Park.

Raymond, a Vietnam veteran and Silver Star recipient for heroism in combat, will assume his duties June 1.

He replaces Maj. Gen. Rodney Hanula, who has assumed command of the Army National Guard's 34th Infantry Division, headquartered in Rosemount, Minn.

Raymond's duties will include assisting and evaluating readiness training of Army National Guard and Army Reserve units in the northern half of the command, which includes 27 states east of the Mississippi. He also will provide assistance to guard and reserve commanders when units are mobilized.

Interest rate fears rock Dow

Wall Street took a tumble Monday, with the Dow Jones industrial average falling 147 points, or 1.6 percent, because of investor fears that the Federal Reserve may raise interest rates soon to slow the strong pace of U.S. economic growth.

Fed sources confirmed Monday that officials of the central bank, at a policy-making session, indeed had voted to drop their neutral stance on rates and adopt a "bias" toward raising rates.

Suicide leads cops to 5 bodies

ARTESIA, Calif. — An aerospace worker apparently killed five friends and relatives at his home, then drove to a freeway overpass and jumped to his death. The bodies of two men, two women and a young girl were found Sunday scattered throughout Ronald Taylor's home by sheriff's detectives who went there to notify relatives of his death. They got the address from Taylor's driver's license.

"This is a murder-suicide," said Los Angeles County sheriff's spokesman Deputy William Martin, "and (Taylor) is indeed the suspect in the case."

The victims were Taylor's wife, Ruthie, 40; son Rick Taylor, 24; sister-in-law Mylissa Campbell, 29; niece Jolissa Morales, 6; and Tomy Kang Jung, 24, a family friend.

Taylor, 46, worked for McDonnell Douglas for 16 years.

Senate opens probe of IRS abuses

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Senate panel is taking another high-profile look at the Internal Revenue Service, particularly over assertions that it abuses its power when investigating taxpayers and plays favorites when it disciplines its work force.

"We will focus on a number of serious issues which weigh heavily on the integrity of the IRS," Senate Finance Committee Chairman William Roth, R-Del., said in a statement Monday.

The four days of hearings came as legislation to revamp the tax collector and expand taxpayers' rights was expected to

reach the Senate floor next week.

IRS oversight hearings held in September by Roth's committee pushed an IRS overhaul to the political center stage. But this new round of hearings were being held in a much more politically charged environment.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott accused Democrats of trying to intimidate witnesses. The Mississippi Republican denounced Democrats' decision last weekend to release a Treasury inspector general's report critical of a Houston IRS agent who was a star whistleblower in last fall's IRS oversight hearings.

"I think it maybe was an effort to intimidate witnesses that we were planning on having this week," Lott said.

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said the Treasury's findings, coupled with Democrats' exclusion from planning the hearings, showed the GOP was more interested in sensationalism.

"I think it undermines the credibility of every witness that will be coming before the Congress this week," Daschle said. "If we've had the kind of sensationalism and erroneous data provided to the committee in the past, it's very likely it'll happen again."

Japan ordered to pay World War II sex slaves

By The Guardian

TOKYO — In a damning judgment, a Japanese court Monday ordered the government to compensate three former Korean "comfort women" who were forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese army during World War II.

Judge Hideaki Chikashita said the treatment of the women was "a clear case of sexual and ethnic discrimina-

tion as well as a violation of the human rights enshrined in the constitution."

The court told the government to pay \$2,290 in compensation to each of the three women. It was the first ruling in favor of plaintiffs seeking compensation from Tokyo for their suffering during the war.

The judge was scathingly critical of the government's failure to pass laws to provide

official compensation, despite admitting its involvement in the women's conscription.

Historians estimate that up to 200,000 women, mostly from Korea, were forced to provide sex for Japanese soldiers in military brothels before and during the war.

Although Tokyo admitted in 1992 that the wartime government had helped to set up such brothels, it has refused to

pay direct compensation to the women, arguing that the issue was settled by peace treaties. Instead, it has set up a private fund, which has paid former sex slaves more than \$72,000 in the past two years.

The ruling Monday was the first of six suits brought by former comfort women against the government.

The other lawsuits still are pending.

Sanctions on Serbs may be lifted

By Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration will suggest a gradual lifting of remaining sanctions against the rump Yugoslavia if President Slobodan Milosevic agrees to a negotiated settlement of the crisis in Kosovo, a senior official said Monday.

In an effort to pressure Milosevic into unconditional negotiations with Kosovo's ethnic Albanians, who make up 90 percent of the population of the Serbian province, U.S. representatives on Wednesday will offer a package of incentives and sanctions to the six-nation Contact Group on the Balkans meeting in Rome, the official said.

"If the Yugoslav government accepts — and implements — our framework for negotiations, we are prepared to offer some fairly attractive incentives," the official told reporters. But if Milosevic refuses to go along, he added, Washington wants new sanctions to "kick in automatically."

The official did not detail the incentives or the sanctions, although he said the rewards "are fairly obvious" and include an offer by the United States and its allies to try to reintegrate Yugoslavia, consisting of Serbia and its much smaller neighbor Montenegro, into the world economy.

Another senior official said earlier that "the cupboard of additional sanctions is almost bare but not entirely bare." He added, "It is very important that Rome offer some incentives for good behavior in the future but not rewards for what has been pretty bad behavior in the past."

Both officials said the situation in Kosovo is becoming increasingly dangerous because of an escalating offensive by the Yugoslav army against Kosovo Albanian separatists. There is a growing danger that the conflict could ignite a war between Yugoslavia and Albania, or spill across the border into Macedonia, a former Yugoslav republic with a large ethnic Albanian population of its own.

Bishop who probed abuses found killed

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — Angry Roman Catholic leaders have challenged authorities to quickly solve the assassination of one of their bishops, a crime even former rebels have called "a serious political provocation."

Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera was bludgeoned to death Sunday night, just two days after a report he compiled on atrocities during Guatemala's 36-year civil war was made public.

Gerardi, a leading human rights activist, was found in a pool of blood with his head bashed in the garage of his San Sebastian parish home. The killing has shaken the Central American nation, which still is recovering from the war that ended in 1996 only after arduous negotiations.

His report, titled "Never Again," part of the U.N.-sponsored peace accords, blamed the army and its paramilitaries for nearly 80 percent of the killings during the war.

Jackson eyes presidential run

ATHENS, Ohio (AP) — In the foothills of one of America's poorest areas, the Rev. Jesse Jackson said on Sunday that a new national debate is needed to bridge the gap between the rich and poor.

"I'm convinced that this is the time to reform the nationwide debate," Jackson said at a town hall meeting he moderated. "More and more Americans are being left behind. ... That must be the essence of the debate in '98 and 2000."

Jackson's two-day visit to Athens, a city of 21,000 residents about 60 miles southeast of Columbus, has been labeled as an attempt to gauge his appeal for a possible presidential bid for 2000.

But there was no mention of the topic during the 90-minute meeting at Ohio University. "I have not made that decision, in part because it is premature," Jackson said afterward.

Instead, medical, education, business, environmental and welfare experts discussed the problems of an area in the Appalachian foothills where unemployment is high and incomes are below the state average.

Athens County's unemployment rate was 1.6 percentage points above the state average of 5.9 percent in March. The county's per-capita income in 1994 was \$7,367 below the state average of \$20,867.

Spike Lee wants real thing when it comes to sports

Athletic actors weren't good enough for Spike Lee's upcoming basketball film, *He Got Game*.

Real athletes were even better.

"One of the reasons most sports films are so bad is because it's very hard for an actor to play a believable athlete," the filmmaker and die-hard New York Knicks fan said in Sunday's New York Times.

Lee, who directed *Do the Right Thing* and *Malcolm X*, wanted to avoid corny, unrealistic basketball scenes for his first film centered on sports.

"For an actor to play basketball, that's taking a big step," he said.

Ray Allen, a 22-year-old guard for the Milwaukee Bucks, stars opposite Denzel Washington. The film also features NBA players John Wallace, Walter McCarty, Travis Best and Rick Fox.

Still, it wasn't an easy layup for Allen: He had to submit to acting classes.

Dilbert finally wins one

Dilbert, the put-upon office worker, is finally a winner.

Dilbert was named this year's top newspaper comic strip Saturday night and creator Scott Adams won the Reuben Award — cartooning's highest honor — at the National Cartoonist So-

ciety's 58th annual Reuben Award ceremony.

The nationally syndicated strip lampoons corporate life and features a bookish office worker whose tie is permanently curled, a sarcastic dog who works as a human resources director and a raft of bumbling executives.

Dilbert appears in 1,700 newspapers, including *The Stars and Stripes*.

Visit a tough one

A visit to tornado-ravaged Alabama communities left American Red Cross director Elizabeth Dole in tears.

"I can hardly talk about it," Dole said shortly after touring the McDonald Chapel and Edgewater communities in Jefferson County, Ala. "It's been one of the most emotional experiences that I've ever had."

No smiles this time

Geoffrey Rush, who won an Academy Award for playing a piano prodigy in *Shine*, isn't expecting any laughs when moviegoers see him in his latest role.

The Australian-born Rush, who earned last year's Oscar for best actor for his portrayal of David Helfgott, plays the malevolent police officer Javert in a film version of *Les Misérables*.

"Can't I even have a little smile?" he asked director Bille August. According to Rush, August replied, "Why would this man smile?"

Powell's volunteers on track for success

WASHINGTON (AP) — A year after his national volunteer campaign began, retired Gen. Colin L. Powell said the movement is growing and his group is leading the way as the "evangelicals" of volunteering.

"I think we've done very well," Powell said on the first anniversary of the Presidents' Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia, which gave birth to Powell's volunteer organization "America's Promise."

In a swing through three Sunday television news shows, Powell disputed criticisms that the summit and his campaign have done little to foster long-lasting volunteer work by Americans.

In The Stars and Stripes

10 YEARS AGO

April 28, 1988 — Saudi Arabia said it decided to end relations with Iran after a riot by Iranians in Mecca and Iranian attacks on shipping in the Persian Gulf.

20 YEARS AGO

April 28, 1978 — Saying the use of hard drugs among U.S. servicemen was increasing at a serious rate, the White House urged Congress to reinstate a program of random testing of military personnel.

30 YEARS AGO

April 28, 1968 — Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey announced that he would run for president, joining Democratic candidates Sens. Robert F. Kennedy and Eugene J. McCarthy, a fellow Minnesotan.

40 YEARS AGO

April 28, 1958 — The Senate refused, by a vote of 52-28, to broaden an employee welfare-pension fund bill to prohibit labor unions from denying membership because of race, creed or color.

50 YEARS AGO

April 28, 1948 — The United Nations prepared to send a force of 1,000 volunteers to protect Jerusalem and its holy shrines as Arab nations prepared to invade Palestine.

Cavs stave off elimination with win

CLEVELAND (AP) — By the end of the fourth quarter, there were dozens of people sitting courtside who were qualified to coach the Cleveland Cavaliers.

They were pointing toward Shawn Kemp and shouting that he should get the ball every time down the court.

That's pretty much what happened. Whether it was Kemp or the referees who were responsible for Cleveland's 86-77 victory over the Indiana Pacers Monday night depends on who is asked.

"A lot of times I thought we defended him well, but they bailed him out with the call," said Pacers coach Larry Bird, who missed a chance to sweep his first playoff series as a coach.

"It's sad when you go to the line 15

times and they go to the line 37 times," Indiana point guard Mark Jackson said. "Either we weren't as aggressive as we should have been, or it was something else."

Kemp scored 31 points as the Cavaliers avoided elimination in the best-of-5 series with their first home playoff win in five years. The teams meet again in Game 4 on Thursday night in Cleveland, with Indiana leading two games to one.

In Monday night's only other playoff game, San Antonio defeated Phoenix 100-88 to take a 2-1 lead in that series.

Tonight, Miami is at New York, Char-

lotte at Atlanta, Seattle at Minnesota and the Los Angeles Lakers at Portland. The Lakers and Hornets lead 2-0, while the Heat-Knicks and SuperSonics-Timberwolves series are tied at 1-1.

On Wednesday night, it's Chicago at New Jersey, Phoenix at San Antonio and Utah at Houston. The Bulls lead the Nets 2-0 and the Jazz and Rockets are tied after two games.

Kemp sealed the victory with a 16-foot jumper that made it 84-77 with 29 seconds left. Fans who have been sitting on their hands seemingly since the Cavs moved into Gund Arena in 1994 responded as Kemp danced at halfcourt — two hip thrusts and two kicks that got the place as loud as it ever has been.



Habs win in home debut

By Associated Press

Maybe home ice is an advantage after all for the Montreal Canadiens.

A team that didn't do all that well at home during the regular season, the Canadiens beat Pittsburgh 3-1 Monday night in their first playoff game at the Molson Centre this year.

"It was the best game our team has played in a long time — regular season or playoffs," said Shayne Corson, who scored two goals as the Canadiens took a 2-1 lead in the best-of-7 Eastern Conference series. "It was really a team effort."

The Canadiens only managed a 15-17-9 record at home during the season and had a losing record of 38-42-17 since moving from the Montreal Forum to the Molson Centre in 1996.

In other playoff action Monday night, Buffalo beat Philadelphia 6-1 to take a 2-1 lead in their Eastern Conference series and St. Louis defeated Los Angeles 4-3 to go up 3-0 in their Western Conference

matchup.

Sabres 6, Flyers 1

At Buffalo, Miroslav Satan scored two goals and the Sabres scored four times in the second period to beat the Flyers after two tight games in their series.

Blues 4, Kings 3

Terry Yake scored the go-ahead goal at 15:06 of the third period, capping a four-goal barrage during a five-minute power play, as visiting St. Louis beat Los Angeles.

Leading 3-0 after two periods, the Kings appeared to have their first win of the playoff series in hand when Sean O'Donnell was hit with a game misconduct.

O'Donnell was ejected at 8:44 for going after Geoff Courtnall, who had charged Kings rookie goaltender Jamie Storr. O'Donnell jumped on Courtnall and threw several punches. Courtnall skated away with a charging minor, which was offset by Ian Laperriere's boarding minor.

O'Donnell's penalty set up a five-minute power play for the Blues.



Jamison says he will enter NBA draft

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — Coming to a decision was easy for Antawn Jamison. Letting go was another matter.

The national player of the year reluctantly said goodbye to the college game, his North Carolina teammates, and coaches Bill Guthridge and Dean Smith when he announced

Monday he would leave school a year early and enter the NBA draft.

"I was tossing and turning and I got up at 5 o'clock in the morning playing video games," the 6-foot-9 junior forward said of his sleepless night before his announcement. "Usually at 5 o'clock in the morning I'm sleeping

real deep.

"It was an easy decision, but it has been difficult to swallow because you are saying goodbye to a lot of things, and I have just adapted to being around the university."

Jamison had averaged 22.2 points and 10.5 rebounds this season for the Tar Heels.

Duncan named rookie of year

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — After just one season, Tim Duncan is drawing comparisons to the likes of David Robinson and Kevin McHale.

Duncan, a major force in leading the San Antonio Spurs to a record turnaround this season, overwhelmingly was voted the NBA's Rookie of the Year on Monday.

"It's a goal I had coming into this year," he said. "I wanted to play well this year and win this award."

The No. 1 draft pick from Wake Forest received 113 of 116 votes (97 percent) from a panel of NBA writers and broadcasters. New Jersey's Keith Van Horn got the other three votes.

Duncan's margin of victory as the largest since Shaquille O'Neal received 98 percent of the vote in 1992-93.

"He's big time, just like David (Robinson) was and just like Shaq was," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "His demeanor and approach to this whole business is uncommon and extraordinary."

With Duncan in the lineup and Robinson returning from foot and back injuries, the Spurs went 56-26 in the regular season, an improvement of 36 victories from their 1996-97 mark.

San Antonio set another league record by holding opponents to 41.1 percent shooting.

SF rallies in 9th to win

By Associated Press

Back-to-back home runs one day, a high infield chopper the next.

For two straight games, the San Francisco Giants hit the ball just far enough in the ninth inning to win.

Jeff Kent bounced an infield single off home plate with the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth Monday night, giving the Giants a 6-5 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

The Giants overcame a 5-0 deficit and now have come back to win eight times this season. On Sunday, they rallied from six runs down, getting homers in the ninth from Stan Javier and Charlie Hayes to defeat Milwaukee.

"Like last year, anything can happen," said San Francisco manager Dusty Baker.

Elsewhere in the NL, it was: Milwaukee 3, Los Angeles 2 in 13 innings; Atlanta 6, Arizona 5; Chicago 3, San Diego 1; Florida 5, Colorado 4 in 10 innings; St. Louis 7, Montreal 0; Cincinnati 3, Philadelphia 1; and Houston 4, New York 3.

Brewers 3, Dodgers 2, 13 innings

At Los Angeles, Jeromy Burnitz hit a two-out RBI single in the 13th for Mil-



waukee.

Braves 6, Diamondbacks 5

At Phoenix, Keith Lockhart's RBI single with one out in the ninth lifted Atlanta, which blew a 5-3 lead in the eighth before beating Arizona for the fourth straight time.

Cubs 3, Padres 1

At San Diego, Sammy Sosa hit a two-run homer and Kevin Tapani (4-1) shook off being struck by the barrel of a broken bat as Chicago snapped a five-game losing streak.

Marlins 5, Rockies 4, 10 innings

At Denver, Bobby Bonilla's first homer of the season, a solo shot in the 10th off Curtis Leskanic, rallied Florida.

Cardinals 7, Expos 0

At St. Louis, Donovan Osborne allowed three hits in seven scoreless innings to win for the first time since Aug. 31.

Reds 3, Phillies 1

At Cincinnati, Eddie Taubensee hit a two-run homer in the ninth and Brett Tomko allowed only three hits in eight innings for Cincinnati.

Astros 4, Mets 3

At New York, Tony Eusebio's RBI double capped a three-run ninth inning as Houston rallied in a makeup of a rained-out game.

Yanks, Bosox keep winning

By Associated Press

Despite winning 14 of their last 15 games, the New York Yankees haven't gained any ground on the Boston Red Sox.

That's because Boston also has won 14 of its last 15 to remain percentage points behind first-place New York in the AL East.

Midre Cummings and Darren Lewis homered in the eighth inning Monday night as the Red Sox rallied to beat the Detroit Tigers 6-5 at Fenway Park. The Red Sox overcame a 5-1 deficit to win their seventh straight and improve to 17-6, with eight wins coming in their last at-bat.

In New York, Andy Pettitte beat Roger Clemens for the second time in less than a week as the Yankees defeated the Toronto Blue Jays 1-0.

Clemens (2-3) allowed only three hits and struck out eight in seven innings, but he was hurt by six walks.



Elsewhere in the AL, it was Oakland 7, Tampa Bay 6; Anaheim 3, Baltimore 1; Texas 9, Minnesota 4; and Chicago 10, Cleveland 3.

Seattle at Kansas City was postponed by rain.

Athletics 7, Devil Rays 6

Kevin Mitchell drove in three runs, including two on a ninth-inning single, to give visiting Oakland a victory over slumping Tampa Bay.

Angels 3, Orioles 1

At Baltimore, Chuck Finley won his 14th straight decision as the Anaheim Angels extended their winning streak to five games.

Rangers 9, Twins 4

Rick Helling joined teammate Aaron Sele as the majors' only five-game winners and Lee Stevens homered as Texas won at Minnesota.

White Sox 10, Indians 3

Robin Ventura went 4-for-5 with two RBIs and rookie Mike Caruso hit a two-run triple to lead the Chicago White Sox over the Cleveland Indians.

The Indians have lost eight of 11.

Dikta: I goofed on Bulls' rumor

From wire reports

CHICAGO — New Orleans Saints coach Mike Ditka said Monday his comments about his trainer interviewing with Tim Floyd for a position with the Chicago Bulls were erroneous.

Reports that the Saints' trainer had interviewed with Floyd, the Iowa State coach who is widely believed to be the next coach of the Bulls, caused a stir in Chicago, where coach Phil Jackson is leading the Bulls in the first round of the NBA playoffs.

"During minicamp this past weekend, I was asked if Dean Kleinschmidt had interviewed with Tim Floyd about becoming the next trainer for the Chicago Bulls. I answered yes," Ditka said in a prepared statement.

"To that extent, I was incorrect that Dean had interviewed with Tim Floyd when in fact Dean had interviewed with Bulls general manager Jerry Krause and not Tim Floyd."

Ex-executive Gabe Paul dies

Gabe Paul, the baseball executive who arranged for George Steinbrenner to buy the Yankees, then built their championship teams of the late 1970s, died on Sunday at Memorial Hospital of Tampa (Fla.). Paul, who lived in Tampa, was 88.

He started out as a minor-league bat-boy in 1920, he was still going strong as president of the Cleveland Indians in the 1980s, and in between, Paul bought, sold and traded more than 500 players.

Paul survived for only five years with the Yankees, but he engineered a host of shrewd deals and spent Steinbrenner's money freely at the dawn of free agency. Paul made the trades that brought Willie Randolph, Chris Chambliss, Bucky Dent, Lou Piniella, Mickey Rivers and Ed Figueroa. He also signed some of the first free-agent stars, getting Catfish Hunter, Reggie Jackson and Don Gullett.

NHL board OKs Oilers sale

EDMONTON, Alberta — The Oilers are staying in Edmonton.

The NHL Board of Governors unanimously approved a bid Monday from a group of local investors to buy the Edmonton Oilers, dropping the puck on a new era in this city's passionate relationship with its hockey team.

"Hockey's on everybody's mind right now and we're feeling pretty good after today's news," said Jim Hole, one of the 17 investors in the deal.